



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Two Piedmont, S.C. Men Arrested for Sex with Minor

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of Robert Gene Richardson (DOB: 1975) and Patrick Shane Franklin (DOB 1973), both of Piedmont, South Carolina on charges connected to sexual conduct with a minor. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office, a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, made the arrest.

Investigators say both men engaged in sexual activity with a minor, and were both aware of the victim's age.

Richardson was charged with one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment, and one (1) count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, second degree (§16-3-655), a felony offense punishable by up to twenty (20) years imprisonment and Sex Offender Registry status.

Franklin was charged with one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment; three (3) counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, second degree (§16-3-655), a felony offense punishable by up to twenty (20) years imprisonment and Sex Offender Registry status; and one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, third degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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